

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-15, and 17-23, and add new Claims 25-27, as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below):

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A device searching apparatus that searches for at least one device on a network, comprising:

~~management means for managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and attribute information associated therewith;~~

~~input means for entering a first search condition and a second search condition about a device function in order to search for a desired device on the network;~~

~~first search means for searching for at least one device that satisfies the first search condition entered by using said input means;~~

~~second search means for searching for a at least one device from the database that satisfies the second search condition entered using said input means;~~

~~recognition means for recognizing whether a number of devices that satisfy the search condition is greater than a predetermined number;~~

~~output means for outputting a search result that includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies the search condition; and~~

~~control means for controlling said search means to request an additional search for additional attribute information of the device, in accordance with a recognition result of said~~

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~~recognition means based on searches by said first search means and said second search means,~~

~~wherein said output means outputs the search result such that a device that satisfies the first search condition may be discriminated from a device that satisfies the second search condition.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a volume of attribute information outputted by said output means when said recognition means recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is more than the predetermined number is greater than a volume of attribute information outputted by said output means when said recognition means recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is less than the predetermined number

said first search means performs a first search based on an inputted value representing a plurality of functions,

said second search means performs a second search independently of the first search based on an inputted value representing a plurality of functions, the inputted value being inputted independently of the inputted value used by said first search means, and

said output means distinguishably displays a search result of said first search means and a search result of said second search means on a display unit.

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Claim 3 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

control means for controlling said output means to output the search result such that the search result includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies at least one of the first search condition and the second search condition; and

communication means for acquiring device information, registered corresponding to identification information in another apparatus on the network, from the other apparatus,

wherein said control means controls said communication means to acquire additional information on each device identified in the search result, and causes the additional information to be added to the search result.

Claim 4 (previously amended): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control means is adapted to acquire, from an apparatus that manages location information of devices on the network, location information of each device identified in the search result, and to add the location information to the search result.

Claim 5 (previously amended): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control means is adapted to acquire, from an apparatus that manages charge information of devices on the network, charge information of each device identified in the search result, and to add the charge information to the search result.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): A device searching apparatus that searches for at least one device on a network, comprising:

management means for managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

input means for entering a ~~search condition about a device function in order to search for a~~ first group of attributes and a second group of attributes for searching for at least one desired device on the network;

first search means for searching for a at least one device from the database that satisfies the search condition entered having the first group of attributes entered using said input means;

second search means for searching for at least one device from the database having the second group of attributes entered using said input means;

output means for outputting a search result that includes identification information ~~and of~~ static information of a device ~~that satisfies the search condition~~ having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes;

control means for adding dynamic information to the search result, according to a number of devices ~~that satisfy the search condition~~ having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes; and

discrimination means for discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic information, which relates to a use history of devices on the network,

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wherein, in a case in which ~~the~~ a number of devices ~~that satisfy~~ having the ~~search condition~~ first group of attributes is zero, said control means adds to the search result information of the device with a the high frequency of use discriminated using said discrimination means.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, in a case in which a number of devices identified in the search result is at least equal to a predetermined value, said control means ~~is adapted to acquire~~ acquires dynamic information from a device ~~that satisfies the search condition~~ having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes and ~~to add~~ adds the dynamic information to the search result.

Claim 8 (canceled)

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Claim 9 (currently amended): A device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, comprising ~~steps of:~~

~~managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and attribute information associated therewith;~~

an input step of entering a first search condition and a second search condition  
~~about a device function~~ in order to search for a desired device on the network;

a first search step of searching for a at least one device from the database that satisfies the first search condition entered in said entering input step;

recognizing whether a number of devices that satisfy the search condition is greater than a predetermined number;

a second search step of searching for at least one device that satisfies the second search condition entered in said input step;

an output step of outputting a search result that includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies the search condition; and

controlling said searching step to request an additional search for additional attribute information of the device, in accordance with a recognition result of said recognizing step based on said first search step and said second search step,

wherein said output step outputs the search result such that a device that satisfies the first search condition may be discriminated from a device that satisfies the second search condition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein a volume of attribute information outputted in said outputting step when said recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is more than a predetermined number is greater than a volume of attribute information outputted in said outputting step when said recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is less than the predetermined number

said first search step performs a first search based on an inputted value representing a plurality of functions.

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said second search step performs a second search independently of the first search based on an inputted value representing a plurality of functions, the inputted value being inputted independently of the inputted value used in said first search step, and  
said output step includes distinguishably displaying a search result of said first search step and a search result of said second search step on a display unit.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

a control step of controlling said output step to output the search result such that the search result includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies at least one of the first search condition and the second search condition; and

a reception step of receiving device information, registered corresponding to identification information in another apparatus on the network, from the other apparatus,

wherein said ~~controlling control~~ step controls said ~~receiving~~ reception step to acquire additional information on each device identified in the search result, and causes the additional information to be added to the search result.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein said ~~controlling control~~ step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages location information of devices on the network, location information of each device identified in the search result, and

adding the location information to the search result.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein said ~~controlling~~ control step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages charge information of devices on the network, charge information of each device identified in the search result, and adding the charge information to the search result.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, comprising steps of:

a management step of managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

an input step of entering a ~~search condition about a device function in order to search for a~~ first group of attributes and a second group of attributes for searching for at least one desired device on the network;

a first search step of searching for a at least one device from the database ~~that satisfies the search condition~~ having the first group of attributes entered in said ~~entering input~~ input step;

a second search step of searching for at least one device from the database having the second group of attributes entered in said input step;

an output step of outputting a search result that includes identification information ~~and or~~ or static information of a device ~~that satisfies~~ having at least one of the search



condition first and the second groups of attributes;

a control step of adding dynamic information to the search result, according to a number of devices that satisfy the search condition having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes; and

a discrimination step of discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic information, which relates to a use history of devices on the network, wherein, in a case in which the a number of devices that satisfy having the search condition first group of attributes is zero, said adding step adds control step includes adding to the search result information of the device with a the high frequency of use discriminated in said discriminating discrimination step to the search result.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method according to claim 14, wherein, in a case in which a number of devices identified in the search result is at least equal to a predetermined value, said adding control step includes acquiring dynamic information from a device that satisfies the search condition having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes and adding the dynamic information to the search result.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A memory medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer to implement a device searching method for searching for

at least one device on a network, the method comprising steps of:

~~managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and attribute information associated therewith;~~

~~an input step of entering a first search condition about a device function and a second search condition in order to search for a desired device on the network;~~

~~a first search step of searching for a at least one device from the database that satisfies the first search condition entered in the entering said input step;~~

~~a second search step of searching for at least one device that satisfies the second search condition entered in said input step;~~

~~recognizing whether a number of devices that satisfy the search condition is greater than a predetermined number;~~

~~an output step of outputting a search result that includes identification information and attribute information of device that satisfies the search condition; and~~

~~controlling the searching step to request an additional search for additional attribute information of the device, in accordance with a recognition result of the recognizing step based on said first search step and said second search step.~~

~~wherein said output step outputs the search result such that a device that satisfies the first search condition may be discriminated from a device that satisfies the second search condition.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended): A memory medium according to claim 17,

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wherein a volume of attribute information outputted in the outputting step when the recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is more than a predetermined number is greater than a volume of attribute information outputted in the outputting step when the recognizing step recognizes that the number of devices that satisfy the search condition is less than the predetermined number

said first search step performs a first search based on an inputted value representing a plurality of functions,

said second search step performs a second search independently of the first search based on an inputted value representing a plurality of functions, the inputted value being inputted independently of the inputted value used in said first search step, and

said output step includes distinguishably displaying a search result of said first search step and a search result of said second search step on a display unit.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A memory medium according to claim 18, wherein the method further comprises a step of:

a control step of controlling said output step to output the search result such that the search result includes identification information and attribute information of a device that satisfies at least one of the first search condition and the second search condition; and

a reception step of receiving device information, registered corresponding to the identification information in another apparatus on the network, from the other apparatus,

wherein ~~the controlling~~ said control step controls ~~the receiving~~ said reception

step to acquire additional information on each device identified in the search result, and to add causes the additional information to be added to the search result.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): A memory medium according to claim 19, wherein ~~the controlling~~ said control step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages location information of devices on the network, location information of each device identified in the search result, and adding the location information to the search result.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A memory medium according to claim 19, wherein ~~the controlling~~ said control step includes acquiring, from an apparatus that manages charge information of devices on the network, charge information of each device identified in the search result, and adding the charge information to the search result.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A memory medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer to implement a device searching method for searching for at least one device on a network, the method comprising ~~steps of~~:

a management step of managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

an input step of entering a ~~search condition about a device function in order to search for a~~ first group of attributes and a second group of attributes for searching for at least one desired device on the network;

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a first search step of searching for a at least one device from the database that satisfies the search condition having the first group of attributes entered in the entering said input step;

a second search step of searching for at least one device from the database having the second group of attributes entered in said input step;

an output step of outputting a search result that includes identification information and or static information of a device that satisfies the search condition having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes;

a control step of adding dynamic information to the search result, according to a number of devices that satisfy the search condition having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes; and

a discrimination step of discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic information, which relates to a use history of devices on the network, wherein, in a case in which the a number of devices that satisfy having the search condition first group of attributes is zero, the adding said control step adds to the search result information of the device with a the high frequency of use discriminated in the discriminating said discrimination step to the search result.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A memory medium according to claim 22, wherein, in a case in which a number of devices identified in the search result is at least equal to a predetermined value, the adding said control step includes acquiring dynamic information from

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a device ~~that satisfies the search condition~~ having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes and adding the dynamic information to the search result.

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Claim 24 (canceled)

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Claim 25 (new): A device according to claim 6, wherein  
the first group of attributes used by said first search means includes at least one  
of color, double side, and staple,  
said output means outputs to a display unit, and  
said first search means and said second search means search for devices having  
the first group of attributes and the second group of attributes, respectively, in accordance with a  
search instruction inputted by a user, such that found devices are automatically displayed on the  
display unit as list.

Claim 26 (new): A device searching system that searches for at least one  
device on a network, comprising:  
an input unit for entering a first search condition and a second search condition  
in order to search for a desired device on the network;  
a first search computer for searching for at least one device that satisfies the  
first search condition entered by using said input unit;  
a second search computer for searching for at least one device that satisfies the

second search condition entered by using said input unit; and

an output unit for outputting a search result of searches performed by said first search computer and said second search computer,

wherein said output unit outputs the search result such that a device that satisfies the first search condition may be discriminated from a device that satisfies the second search condition.

Claim 27 (new): A device searching system that searches for at least one device on a network, comprising:

a management computer for managing a database that includes identification information for identifying a device on the network and static information associated therewith;

an input unit for entering a first group of attributes and a second group of attributes for searching for at least one desired device on the network;

a first search computer for searching for at least one device from the database having the first group of attributes entered using said input unit;

a second search computer for searching for at least one device from the database that satisfies the second group of attributes entered using said input unit;

an output unit for outputting a search result that includes identification information or static information of a device having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes;

a control computer for adding dynamic information to the first and the second

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groups of attributes, according to a number of devices having at least one of the first and the second groups of attributes; and

a discrimination computer for discriminating a device with a high frequency of use, based on the dynamic information, which relates to a use history of devices on the network,

wherein, in a case in which a number of devices having the first group of attributes is zero, said control computer adds to the search result information of the device with the high frequency of use discriminated using said discrimination computer.

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